IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph spanning page 4, line 23 through page 5, line 10 as follows:

For alloys containing a similar amount of titanium and nickel atoms, particular effects can be observed. Due to these effects, such alloys are also designated shape memory alloys. These effects are based on thermoelastic martensitic phase transformation, i.e. a temperature-dependent modification of the crystalline structure: at high temperatures, the alloy is austenitic, at low temperature, however, it is martensitic. According to T.W. Duerig and H.R. Pelton, ('TI-NI Shape Memory Alloys", in: Materials Properties Handbook: Titanium Alloys, 1994, pages 1035-1048, ASM International 1994), two characteristics have to be distinguished for shape memory alloys. Alloys with a titanium content between ~~49,7~~ 49.7 to ~~50,7~~ 50.7 atom% show a thermal shape memory, also designated shape memory; whereas alloys with a titanium content of ~~49,0~~ 49.0 to ~~49,4~~ 49.4 atom % show a mechanical shape memory, also designated superelasticity. Not only binary nickel-titanium alloys can have the stated properties. A shape memory alloy can contain ternary ingredients (e.g. iron, chrome or aluminum). The relation of nickel and titanium, as well as the existence of ternary ingredients, ~~have~~ has a big influence on the intensity of the thermal and mechanical shape memory.

Please replace the paragraph spanning page 9, lines 15-16 as follows:

Fig. 27 shows a pre-tensioned clamping sleeve as to ~~Fig. 27~~ Fig. 26.

Please replace the paragraphs spanning page 18, lines 7-31 as follows:

Sub C3> Figures 18-21 correspond to the figures 12-15 and show a second connecting element according to the invention, featuring a clamping sleeve 10 with two or more constructive elements 2, 3 to be connected, inserted; these constructive elements can contact each other with their face ends in the clamping sleeve 10, or are oriented with their ends facing to each other. In its relaxed state (Fig. 18), the clamping sleeve 10 can show a circular cross section, and in the pre-tensioned state (Fig. 19), and in the partially relaxed state (Fig. 20), an oval cross section. In this example, the cross section of the parts (2",3") to be joined is oval.

Figures 22-25 correspond to the figures 12-15 and show a third connecting element according to the invention, featuring a clamping sleeve ~~10~~ 10' with two constructive elements 2, 3 inserted; these constructive elements are oriented with their ends facing to each other. In its relaxed state (Fig. 22), the clamping sleeve ~~10~~ 10' can show an oval cross section, in the pre-tensioned state (Fig. 23), it can show a deformed state as compared to the relaxed state, e.g. a circular or oval cross section, and in the partially relaxed state (Fig. 24), an oval cross section. In this example, the cross section of the constructive elements 2, 3 to be joined is circular.

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Please replace the paragraphs spanning line 33 of page 18 through line 24 of page 19 as follows:

Sub C4> Figures 26-29 correspond to the figures 12-15 and show a fourth connecting element according to the invention, featuring a clamping sleeve 10 with two constructive elements ~~2~~ 2', ~~3~~

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3' to be connected, inserted; these constructive elements are arranged parallel to each other within a section of the clamping sleeve 10. In its relaxed state (Fig. 26), the clamping sleeve 10 can show a circular cross section, and in the pre-tensioned state (Fig. 27), and in the partially relaxed state (Fig. 28), an oval cross section. In this example, the cross section of the constructive elements ~~2~~ 2', ~~3~~ 3' to be joined is rectangular.

Figures 30-33 correspond to the figures 12-15 and show a fifth connecting element according to the invention, featuring a clamping sleeve ~~10~~ 10" with three constructive elements 2,3, 3a to be connected, inserted; these constructive elements are arranged parallel to each other within a section of the clamping sleeve ~~10~~ 10" In its relaxed state (Fig. 30), the clamping sleeve ~~10~~ 10" can show a circular or oval cross section, in the pre-tensioned state (Fig. 31), it can show a cross section deformed on three sides in radial direction, or a cross section flattened on three sides, respectively, and in the partially relaxed state (Fig. 32), a cross section arced on three sides. In this example, the cross section of the constructive elements 2, 3, 3a to be connected is circular.